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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/632,028	07/31/2003	Andrew J. Ries	P9173.00	9663
27581	7590	10/09/2007	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			ALTER, ALYSSA M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3762		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		10/09/2007		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/632,028	RIES ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alyssa M. Alter	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-16 and 18-30 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3-16 and 18-30 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 10, 2007 has been entered.

Double Patenting

1. Claims 1-30 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-28 of copending Application No. 10/632058 (US Patent Publication 20050027327 A1) for reasons previously made of record.
2. Claims 1-30 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-48 of copending Application No. 10/632026 (US Patent Publication 20050027325 A1) for reasons previously made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Applicant discloses in claims 1 and 16, "the first deflection portion causing the connector clip to deflect from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm upon partial insertion of the connector clip into the connector clip aperture, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm upon complete insertion of the connector clip into the connector clip aperture". The "partial" and "complete" insertion was not previously described in the specification.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 13 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claim(s) are vague and appear to be (a) method claim(s) since it provides no further structure, but a mere recitation of intended use for such structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 13-14, 16, 19-20, 22-24, 26 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuzma (US 6,198,969 B1). Kuzma discloses a deflectable U-shaped connector clip, clamp 30, as seen in figures 1 and 2. The connector clip engaged the receiver 20, which the examiner considers the connector clip aperture. The connector clip aperture engages with the output bracket 10, which the examiner considers the connector block, by the connector port 11 within the longitudinal channel.

The examiner further considers the first deflection portion to be the indentation or tapered portion of receiver 20. As depicted in figure 1, this first deflection portion caused the two arms of the connector clip to deflect upon engagement. The first position of the clip is prior to engagement with the connector clip aperture and the second position of the clip is post engagement with the aperture. Furthermore, the first deflection

As to claim 5, the channel 24 in the connector clip aperture is considered to be the second deflection portion.

As to claims 14 and 24, the examiner considers the ends of the first and second arms to be protrusions or flanges. These protrusions are also considered by the examiner to be tapered, as depicted in figure 2.

2. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stutz, Jr. (US 5,413,595). Stutz, Jr. discloses a U-shaped lead retention and seal device. As depicted in figure 1, the deflectable U shaped connector clip 90 is inserted into the connector clip aperture in a longitudinal channel, slot 58.

During initial insertion of the forked clip 56 into the slot 58, the prongs 80, 82 of the forked clip 56 will converge or bend inward to allow the barbs 96, 98 to pass within the walls of the slot 58. However, once the forked clip 56 is inserted into the slot 58 to the "open" position, the barbs 96, 98 will prevent the forked clip 56 from being fully removed from the slot 58 by engaging step 100. In addition, the header 24 may be designed to include a port 102 (FIG. 1) opening into the slot 58, to allow the insertion of a tool or implement (not shown) in order to force the forked clip 56 from the "closed" position into the "open" position.

The examiner considers the first position to be prior to complete insertion into the slot, "closed position" and the second position to be complete insertion into the slot, "open position". Furthermore, the examiner considers the insertion of a lead to create a third position.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alyssa M. Alter whose telephone number is (571) 272-4939. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alyssa M. Alter
Alyssa M Alter
Examiner
Art Unit 3762

GEORGE R. EVANISKO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

9/29/07